

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 03627 151936Z

46

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 L-03

OPR-02 A-01 NIC-01 OC-06 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 NEA-10 PRS-01 USIE-00 PA-03 SS-15 NSC-10

AID-20 SCA-01 OMB-01 PM-07 CCO-00 DODE-00 /118 W

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O 151910Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5197

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CI

SUBJECT: BOMB ATTACKS AND ULTIMA HORA

REF: SANTIAGO'S 3624

1. I WAS CALLED THIS MORNING BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR LETELIER ABOUT THE BOMBS PLACED IN THE GARDENS OF THREE EMBASSY OFFICERS. LETELIER EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THE INCIDENTS AND SAID INVESTIGACIONES AND THE CARABINEROS WERE DOING THEIR UTMOST TO FIND THE PERPETRATORS OF THESE "FASCIST" ATTACKS. HE SAID THE CONTENTS OF THE CHARGE HAD BEEN EXAMINED AND HAD PROVED TO BE SAND -- BUT ADDED THAT THIS IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE GRAVE CONCERN WITH WHICH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT VIEWED THESE ATTACKS. (OUR TECHNICAL SECURITY CHIEF REPORTS THAT THE CHARGES USED APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BLACK POWDER. IT IS PERFECTLY TRUE THAT THEY CONSISTED OF A SAND OR POWDER - ARENILLA WAS THE WORD LETELIER USED - BUT THE ATTITUDE AND COMMENTS OF THE CHILEAN BOMB DISPOSAL EXPERTS DO NOT INDICATE THAT THEY REGARDED THE "SAND" AS INERT MATTER WHEN EXAMINING IT AT THE PLACES WHERE THE BOMBS WERE FOUND.)

2. I TOOK THE OCCASION OF LETELIER'S CALL TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN AT THE ARTICLES WHICH HAVE BEEN APPEARING IN ULTIMA HORA OVER THE PAST
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PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 03627 151936Z

TWO DAYS. I MENTIONED THE FALSE AND OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS MADE

ABOUT ME, AND MY PARTICULAR CONCERN AT THE PUBLICATION OF THE NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS IN SUCH A CONTEXT. I NOTED THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO OBSCENE AND INSULTING CALLS LAST NIGHT AS A RESULT OF ULTIMA HORA'S ARTICLES ON AUGUST 14, AND THAT ONE OF THE BOMB DEVICES FOUND THIS MORNING WAS IN THE GARDEN OF AN OFFICER NAMED IN THE ARTILCE IN QUESTION (ARZAC). I ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE NEWSPAPER WAS AN ORGAN OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN WHICH I UNDERSTOOD SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD A FINANCIAL INTEREST. LETELIER ANSWERED SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALMEYDA HAD BEEN A PARTIAL OWNER, BUT HAD SINCE DIVESTED HIMSELF OF ANY CONTROL OF THE PAPER. LETELIER REITERATED HIS REGRET AND CONCERN AT THE ATTACKS MADE AGAINST US AND SUGGESTED I RAISE THE ULTIMA HORA MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER TALKING WITH LETELIER, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER SECRETARY ORLANDINI. ORLANDINI SAID HE WAS CALLING AT FOREIGN MINISTER ALMEYDA'S REQUEST AND INQUIRED ABOUT THE BOMB OF BOMBS WHICH HAD BEEN FOUND. HE EXPRESSED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S REGRET AND SAID HE WISHED TO DISSOCIATE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT FROM THESE UNFORTUNATE ATTACKS. I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN ABOUT THE ULTIMA HORA ARTICLES IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS AS I HAD TO LETELIER. ORLANDINI SUGGESTED I CALL ON HIM TOMORROW MORNING AT 11:30 TO TALK ABOUT THE BOMBS AND MY OTHER CONCERNS. ONCE AGAIN HE EPXRESSED HIS CONCERN AT WHAT HAD OCCURRED.

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